

Amendments To The Claims:

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1. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition which regulates method for regulating~~ the inflammatory response of enterocytes, ~~said method comprising contacting said enterocytes with a~~ the composition containing as an active agent a lactic acid bacteria strain capable of decreasing the production of nitric oxide (NO) by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines and bacterial lipopolysaccharides (LPS).

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition method~~ according to Claim 1, wherein said strain is also capable of increasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines.

B 3. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition method~~ according to Claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain is an a *Lactobacillus casei* (*L. casei*) strain.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition method~~ according to Claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain is the *L. casei* strain CNCM I-1518.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition method~~ according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a food supplement.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition method~~ according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a fermented dairy product.

7. (Withdrawn) Process for screening novel lactic acid bacterial strains which have properties which modulate non-specific immunity, which comprises selecting lactic acid bacteria strains capable of inhibiting the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines and bacteria LPS.

✓ 8. (Withdrawn) Process according to Claim 7, which also comprises a step of selecting strains capable of increasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines.

/ 9. (Withdrawn) Process according to Claim 7, wherein said strains are screened using cultures of lactic acid bacteria chosen from the group consisting of lactobacilli, lactococci, streptococci and bifidobacteria.

B 10. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition~~ method according to Claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of whole bacteria which may or may not be living.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition~~ method according to Claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of a bacterial lysate.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~composition~~ method according to Claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of bacterial fractions.

13 – 20 (Cancelled)